THE EXCITER

Formerly Called Gutter Dope, Established in 1934.

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VOL 3, NO. 8 AUGUST, 1960 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

AUGUST CLUB MEETING PROGRAMS
8 P.M. AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE PERRY SHANKLE CO., 1801 S. FLORES

FRIDAY, AUG. 5
A VISIT WITH WWV

This evening, Cal Graf W5LFM, will give an illustrated talk on the National Bureau of Standards radio station, and the associated time measuring equipment. Cal has a very good set of slides which show the Beltsville Md. installation from all angles. Come and find out how to stay in the band with old VFO.

DOOR PRIZES

The few people who attend the meetings would like to thank all the hams who have stayed home, because some $20 worth of door prizes are distributed at each meeting and you can't win by staying at home. You can't get your name in the paper either like Williard W5FND, and Bill W5FNA who won the two call books from Modern Radio, Buck W5FGA who won $2.50 gift certificate from Radio & T. V. Parts, Bob W5RSD, who gets $2.50 free parts from Sherman Electronics, and Charlie K5VCR, who gets $2.50 worth of hi-fi from Bill Case Records and Sound. Ray W5IWE, gets Irvings printed circuit Board of the Month, and George W5VPQ, got $5.00 gift cert. from Modern. Thanks to our visitor George KN5ZTO who did the drawing for us.

NOTICE

The Texas Young Ladies Round Up Net 6th Anniversary Party is being held in San Antonio in November, sponsored by the ALAMO YLs. Both TYLRUN & ALAMO YL being non-profit would appreciate any gifts or donations which could be used as prizes. Contact Mrs. Fran Bruemmer, W5KQG at DI 4-5134 or send to 1934 Arroya Vista, San Antonio 1, Texas.

FRIDAY, AUG. 19
ALTERNATOR DISCUSSION
PRIZE DRAWING

In June, there was an unpublicized demonstration of converting alternators cheaply from 6 to 12 volts. We hope to see more detailed information this evening, from several hams who have completed this conversion and have these systems in service. Depending on attendance this evening the format may be a panel discussion. As a second feature, the drawing for prizes in Modern's July Give-Away will be held. See their ad this month for the extended deadline.

FREE PRIZES

For you unbelievers who didn't take the center page of the June issue to Modern Radio, there really was a big free give away, and the lucky winners and their loot were KN5YCO Gary Poleynard, La.; KN5VOF Norman Wheeler, S. A.; K5QZE Herman Palmer, Harlingen, A pair of opera glasses each.

K5RNO Fred Salinas, S. A., a Ronson Electric Shaver, and

K5MQR Robert Parramore, Winters, Tex.: K5DGJ Chas. Teller, S. A. Each won a discoil.

See the Modern ad this month for details on how to be a late bird and qualify for the second drawing which has been held over until August. Make plans to be at the August 19th meeting to be sure your name is drawn.

Editors W5, VPQ, TSE, EJT, and K5OPT
VHF Editor W5LFM
DX Editor W5LGG
Mobile Editor W5EJT
Advertising Mgr. K5VCR
Circulation Mgr. K5OPT
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THE SAN ANTONIO RADIO CLUB W5SC
W5FND, Pres. W5DKF, V.P.
W5HHE, Sec. W5FGA, Treas.
W5DKF, Program chairman

VHF AND UP

There was not much activity on 50 mc. during the last month. While there was something going on at 1030 CST 23 July, K5OOJ and K5LTT worked CO2DL, and along with K5WIB, a batch of KP's were worked. Es was good toward Cuba at this time and CO2DL played back for OOJ the program of a Dallas FM station at 92 mc. which DL was receiving.

While in Mexico City recently, K5KVC visited XE1GE, a 50 mc. reliable in San Antonio whenever Es breaks forth to the South.

To follow up on the Cailf.-Hawaii 144 and 220 mc. trade wind duct work of W6NLZ and KH6UK, the Navy is running a series of tests between San Diego and Hawaii through August. Frequencies being used are 220 and 445 mc. using fixed, aircraft, and the Navy moonbounce transmitter. San Diego will have a KW and 20 db. antenna. Hawaii will have 200 watts and 20 db. antenna. The aircraft flying between the two points will have 200 watts and 10 db. antenna. These TX's will be on 220 mc.

The Hawaii moonbounce TX, which ordinarily communicates with Washington via moon relay, will aim its 40 db. antenna and 100 KW at San Diego. The one billion watt CW effective radiated power should certainly burn a hole in somebody's antenna if an opening materializes! The 1.8 deg. beamwidth of the antenna will illuminate only 80 miles of the west coast at any one time.

During the past month, the writer spent a day in Scotland while flying back from Germany and had a chance to view first hand BBC TV. The audio and video signals have been received in San Antonio each winter since 1956 by many of the 50 mc. gang, the band 41-53 mc. being received most frequently. The 405 line resolution appeared to be as good as the U.S. 525 lines. Two things most noticeable were auto ignition noise in the AM sound channel and white spots (instead of black) during the presence of noise. The latter is due to the type video modultion used, different from that of the U.S. For those slow in adjusting TV sets, the BBC test pattern was on about 4 hours!

Be on the lookout for another ECHO 100 ft. aluminum sphere orbiting try near mid-August. This one will have two 108 mc. beacons on it for easy radio tracking. Visually it will be as bright as a first magnitude star. Good viewing and regards,

Cal Graf, W5LFM

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AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL OM's

Several years ago when I married into ham radio (Never having heard of the stuff before) I was initiated slowly. Had I been exposed to it by full force I probably would be imbittered as are so many XYL's. If this had happened I would never have gotten my ticket so never would have understood the other side of the story.

The way I see it is that Ham Radio is a wonderful hobby, if you are a DXer, Award winner, Certificate Collector, Ragchewer, SSB, CW. or just plain AM. But—as any other hobby often is overdone, so is Ham Radio. This, as I see it, is why so many XYL and YL's care nothing for your hobby. So you may say "What do I care if she cares for my hobby or not? She's got the house and the kids to take care of." So maybe the reason she cares nothing for your hobby is your attitude and the way you lock yourself up in your SHACK for hours at a time, not to mention the mess of junk you collect and the neat pile you keep it in. Just think, isn't this enough to scare any bride back to Mother?

I have yet to meet an OM on the air who does not tell me with pride that his XYL or his son or daughter is a Ham. (Even though he has sacrificed hours of precious time on the air helping them get their license). Now the question is what is the difference between the XYL's who are interested and the ones who are not?

1. Do you neglect your family for your hobby?

2. Do you never get around to cutting the grass or painting the house?

3. You can't take your family for a Sunday outing because you have a schedule with Joe?

4. Do you keep bringing home surplus equipment even though your garage is flowing over?

5. Do you stay up all hours of the night and stay in a bad humor from lack of sleep?

6. Are you always working contests every weekend?

Could any of the above apply to you? If done moderately I feel the XYL and your family will go along with your hobby. Even bring your meals to the rig when you work that contest once or twice a year. But be it every other weekend this can get old. Also after you have all your chores done (so you get behind sometimes) then to your Hobby. And all the junk you must bring home (mine does it too) by all means keep it out of her sight as nothing is more irratating to her then to look at the same junk year after year. Keep your shack neat and she won't mind bringing in your meals and visiting with you when she has the time. She might even enjoy it and the first thing you know she will be asking questions—She's beginning to see the light. So don't scare her away with open wires hanging around and an occasional spark flying through the air with "D O N ' T TOUCH," "HIGH VOLTAGE" signs all over the place.

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So dear OM don't be angry with me for giving my views. My OM has his faults also, or how else would I know so much about all this?

Just hoping more XYLs and YLs will become interested in their OM's hobby of Ham Radio.

73, K5OPT

DX NOTES

The appearance on the bands of PX1PF, (Andorra), gave a new country to W5LUU, W5HHE, W5EJT, and other local DX'ers. This DX-pedition was the work of Walt, DL9PF, and QSL's should go to him. The FEARL DX-pedition to Marcus Island (west of Wake) is so far from everything that it is bound to count as a separate country. So here's hoping that KG6ICD turns out to be a new one for W5UX, W5HHE, W5LGG, W5EJT, and all the others who worked him. Your DX Editor thought he was working "just another guy on Guam" when KG6ICD answered his first call. This just goes to show that heaven helps the helpless. QSL's go to W7PHO. Other possible new countries on the air are the 9Q5's from a strife-ridden Congo, and the 6O2's from the new Republic of Somalia.

A colorful sideline to DX operating is the winning of the many awards and certificates offered for various operating achievements. There are over 200 DX awards, and more than 100 strictly W-type awards. Most familiar are ARRL's Worked All States, Worked All Continents, and their DX Century Club certificate; perhaps the most honored of all awards. In addition, CQ magazine offers the challenging WPX (worked all prefixes) and Worked All Zones awards, and nearly every national Amateur Radio Society in the world offers one or more awards of its own. There are many WAS-type awards; Finland's OHA, France's DPF, Chile's WACE, and Australia's WAVKCA are but a few. There are also many regional awards; such as Germany's Worked All Europe, Brazil's Worked All America, New Zealand's Worked All Pacific, and W4ML's North America Award. There are even certificates for those possessing 25 or more other DX certificates. Many of you have QSL's qualifying you for these or other awards, but have never applied for them because you did not know about the award or how to apply for it. CQ and QST publish awards information from time to time; but the most comprehensive source book is K6BX's new Directory of Awards. It gives full information on over 350 awards, and tells how to get them. The awards are mostly free, the only fee being one to cover return postage, and they nearly all require written confirmation of the award QSO's. Nothing is more beautiful to a DX man than a shack full of "Wallpaper" attesting to his DX prowess. If you mention it, he might even show you his silver medal DUF award from France or his linen WASM banner from Sweden Too!

73 & DX Len W5LGG

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Notice: Due to the late publication date of the Exciter last month, the deadline for the July prize drawing has been extended to Aug. 18. Bring in the center page from the July Exciter to be eligible for many FREE prizes.

Fred K5ENK Red K5GUH Paul K5OHG Jim K5TYI

DOC BEST ANNOUNCES FOR DIRECTOR

Dr. R. O. (Doc) Best, W5QKF, recently announced his candidacy for the post of Director of the West Gulf Division of ARRL. He has served as Section Emergency Coordinator under the retiring Director, Grady Payne, W5ETA, for the past 4 years. During this time he promoted AREC membership from almost zero to over 600. He is past president of the Corpus Christi Amateur Radio Cub, member of the Corpus Rotary Club, past Master of Masonic Lodge No. 189, and past president of the Nueces Valley Dental Society.

Doc lives in Corpus Christi, but manages to get around the division to visit his many friends, and listen to their gripes. He knows the problems of the amateurs in this area, and if he represents us in West Hartford, there is no doubt that the West Gulf Division will be well heard from.

COMING CONVENTIONS AND HAMFESTS

The South Texas Emergency Net will hold its gala wingding in Kerrville Aug. 26-28. All operators of the DC bands are invited, to exchange stories, and VHF ops are invited to listen. (Learn how to work 50 states on 220 Mc without lighting your filaments.) Fun for all, with transmitter hunts, beer, barbecue, dancing, argueing, style show, B&RGW and Tumblebug net conclaves, and the snake dance across the dam highlight the many activities. There will also be technical sessions for the highbrows who may wander in. The prize committee hasn't announced what the prizes are yet, but they will be worthwhile. Registration is $5.00, send to Cedric Tolar, Box 624, Kerrville, Texas. Register by Aug. 15 for pre-registration. Bring the wife, as there will be lots of activities including free luncheon and style show for all ladies registered, courtesy Alamo YL's. Baby sitters will be available for those who request them on their registration application. Please give number and ages of children.

The Central Texas Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring the annual Waco hamfest on Sunday, Sept. 4th this year. There will be a big party for all the family, and a HT-37 grand prize, with a transistor radio-record player as pre-registration prize. Fee is $1.50, and the pre-registration deadline is Aug. 31. Address the club at Box 1032, Waco, Texas.

GUTTER DOPE

Red K5GUH, wants to know what language they speak in Pakistan, also if their megacycle is the same as ours.

Dean W5PLD, should come to club meetings to find otu how to eliminate vibrator hash from mobile receivers.

More information on the WWV data transmissions (July VHF column) is in Electronics World and QST.

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Bill Case W5FNA, says he lived like a King while in Nassau in the Bahamas for a week.

W5SC field day scores averaged out higher than last year, but we'll have to wait until December for final national standings.

Gene W5EJT, made DXCC (you haven't already heard?) in just 9 months 4 days.

Williard W5FND, moved all his junk out of the shop onto the breezway again—there is also rumor that he is going into the range station business. (Move over FAA).

Bob W5OIK, only has 1 airplane?

Due to the unexpected demand W5VPQ can no longer offer the Mexico operating info free. My name Jose Jimenez.

After 4 months of uninterrupted lack of pubication the HARC news is out again full of "10 signals."

Police frequencies 155.37, 155.67; Radar 155.25; County 155.79; Alamo Heights and Olmos Park 155.49; S. A. International Airport Tower 121.9 Ground Control.

You may notice more copy and less ads in this issue. If you don't tell our advertisers that you saw it in the Exciter, there may not be a next issue. Our ads completely support this paper, since there is no subscription fee, so PLEASE let them hear from you.

We would like to have some out-of-town contributors. Any takers?

State Police 42.9Mc. Mobiles 42.74. W5VPQ 53.0. State Guard 2.726.

WANTED

The paper is in need of contributors for SSB, RTTY, CB, CD, AREC, and other news of specialized interest. If you are too lazy or busy to write it up, give George W5VPQ a call at PE 2-0783, and pass along the info. You also might get your name in the paper. We are trying to make this interesting to as many amateurs as possible, but we don't know what you are doing if you don't tell us.

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